



**BOROUGH OF
BARROW
IN FURNESS**

Community Governance Review for the Unparished Area of Barrow Borough 2022

A community governance review (CGR) is a legal process where Barrow Borough Council (BBC), as a principal council, can ask the public and other interested groups or organisations about the most suitable way of representing local communities, through parish or town councils.

What is a Community Governance Review?

A community governance review enables Barrow Borough Council to review and put in place new arrangements, make changes to current community governance systems and structure, for example by creating, merging, abolishing or changing parish or town councils in the area under review (the unparished area of Barrow Borough).

The government has emphasized that the aim of a review should be to bring about improved community engagement, more cohesive communities, better local democracy and result in more effective and convenient delivery of local services.

Parish and town councils provide two main roles; community representation and local administration. The legislation requires Barrow Borough Council to have regard to this need and to ensure that the community governance review:

- Reflects the identities and interests of the community in the area, and is effective and convenient, and
- Takes into account any other arrangements for the purposes of community representation or community engagement in the area.

Why do a Community Governance Review?

As a principal authority, Barrow Borough Council has a legal duty to carry out a Community Governance Review if it has received a valid petition from a parish council, town council or a group of electors.

As a principal authority Barrow BC may also initiate a Community Governance Review. There are currently 2 Parish Councils and 1 Town Council in the borough of Barrow-in-Furness and the Council would like to consider whether to create any more, particularly for the Town of Barrow. This is in the context of the decision of the Secretary of State to create two new unitary authorities within Cumbria.

Principal authorities are also encouraged to regularly review arrangements for town and parish councils ideally on a 10 year cycle.



Who carries out the review?

Principal councils are responsible for undertaking any review within the boundaries of their council area, for Barrow it is Barrow Borough Council.

The review is undertaken with public consultation at various stages and officers will refer responses and recommendations to Barrow BC's Head of Legal and Governance (Monitoring Officer) whose role it is to oversee the entire review process, propose terms of reference, provide initial options for consideration and produce recommendations for consideration by the full council.

What are the Rules for a Community Governance Review?

All reviews are undertaken under the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 ("the 2007 Act"). Section 82 covers the principal council's power to undertake a review or start a review in response to a petition.

The legislation framework is set out in Part 4, Chapter 3 (sections 79 – 102) of the 2007 Act. Also there is guidance in the relevant parts of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) which has sections relevant to town and parish councils.

There is also helpful guidance produced by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government, and the Local Government Boundary Commission for England called 'Guidance on community governance reviews' which is available on the government website available via the following link:-

[Community governance reviews: guidance - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](http://www.gov.uk)

Terms of Reference

When undertaking a community governance review, Barrow Borough Council must set out its Terms of Reference for what will be considered under the review, a full review could include:

- Creating, merging, altering or abolishing parishes;
- The naming of parishes and the style of any new parishes;
- The electoral arrangements for parishes, i.e. the ordinary year of election, council size, the number of councillors to be elected and parish warding; and
- Grouping of parishes under a common parish council or de-grouping parishes.

Or the principal authority may limit what may be considered. The Terms of Reference also include the time frame for the review, how the review will be communicated with all interested groups and the contact details of the officer(s) responsible.

Once published, the Terms of Reference may not be altered or the time frame changed.



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The Terms of Reference for the 2022 Review are available via the following link:-

[Barrow BC - Community Governance Review](#)

How long does the review take?

The review must be completed one year from the day when the Terms of Reference are published.

Where can I find out more about the review?

Barrow BC will publish information about the review on the council website and key documents will be available to view at Barrow Town Hall, Duke Street, Barrow LA14 2LD.